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BOROUGH OF ROWLEY REGIS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1945

FRANK ASKER, Medical Officer of Health.

ALEC LONGFELLOW, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Old Hill, Staffs.

October, 1946.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December, 1945, in which is incorporated the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. In previous years my report as School Medical Officer was incorporated in the Annual Report, but the Council ceased to be a Local Education Authority after the passing of the Education Act, 1944, their powers being taken over by the Staffordshire County Council; so that the report on the School Medical Service in the Borough will be included in the report of the County School Medical Officer.

The year under review was satisfactory from a health point of view. Contrary to expectations, there was no major outbreak of Infectious Disease—it was believed that with war must come pestilence—fortunately history did not repeat itself and pestilence did not come.

The birth rate was 19.085, which, though lower than in 1944 (21.547) was higher than the average for the ten years before the war. The Infant Mortality Rate was 40.32 as compared with 53.91 in the previous year. There was one maternal death.

As in the previous years, the work of the Department was carried out satisfactorily and smoothly due to the help and co-operation of my Staff, to whom I extend my gratitude, more especially to Dr. Hastilow, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and Miss D. Morgan, the Chief Clerk.

To the Members of the Council, I again take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for their help and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK ASKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:—

FRANK ASKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:—

IRENE D. M. F. C. HASTILOW, M.B., Ch.B. (Birm.),
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond), D.P.H. (Birm.),
D.Obst.R.C.O.G. (Eng.), D.C.H. (R.C.P. & S.).

Ophthalmic Surgeon (part-time):—

A. M. DUFF, M.B., B.C.L., B.A.O.

Consulting Obstetric Specialist (part-time):—

W. E. BARNIE-ADSHEAD, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Aural Surgeon (part-time):—

C. L. WALKER, F.R.C.S. (Ed.).

Dental Officer:—

L. H. THOMPSON, L.D.S.

Sanitary Inspector:—

ALEC LONGFELLOW, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.,
Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Meat and Food Inspector's
Certificate, Smoke Inspector's Certificate, Diploma of the
Institute of Public Cleansing, Honours in Plumbing and
Sanitary Science of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:—

W. WOOLDRIDGE, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate.

REGINALD HEATH, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate and Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
(Transferred to H.M.F. 30th January, 1945).

LEONARD COOMBES, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate and Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.

GEORGE FLETCHER, Pupil Assistant. (Left for National
work, 13th November, 1944).

Senior Health Visitor:—

N. E. CHILTON, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (Returned from
Active Service, 12.11.1945).

Health Visitors (who are also School Nurses):—

A. E. DOLLMAN, S.R.N., S.C.M.

M. A. FELLOWS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C.

M. I. SALT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C.

A. M. WALTON, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.I., H.V.C. (Resigned
31.12.1945).

M. E. SIDNEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C. (Resigned
28.2.1945).

School Nurse and Assistant Health Visitor:—

B. STEVENSON, S.R.N . (Appointed 22.2.1945).

Dental Nurse:—

A. M. GILLIVER, S.R.N.

Municipal Midwives :—

F. NORWOOD, S.C.M.

S. E. RANN, S.C.M.

J. M. STALEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

B. M. WEBBER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

H. M. GREPE, S.C.M.

M. C. McGINLEY, S.R.N., S.C.M.

A. L. CROSS, S.R.N., F.R.N., S.C.M.

L. NICKLIN, S.C.M. (Appointed 26.3.1945).

Clerks :—

D. MORGAN

M. ROUND

I. E. ROUND

G. JONES

V. DUNN

(Transferred to H.M.F.,
August, 1943)

E. D. PRIEST

(Transferred to Industry,
May, 1942).

Whole-time jointly with School
Medical Department.

H. TYLER (Mrs.)

I. JONES (Resigned,
October, 1945).

J. BELL

(Released from National
Service and transferred
from Medical Department,
November, 1945).

Whole-time Sanitary
Inspector's Clerks.

D. M. WEBSTER

(Transferred to work of
National Importance, Feb-
ruary, 1943).

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	3,828
Population, Census 1931	41,235
Estimated mid-year 1945	45,480
Number of houses (end of 1945 according to Rate Books)	12,850
Rateable value at December, 1945	£175,828

Sum represented by a Penny Rate at 31st March,					
1945, gross	...	...	...	...	£694 16 6½
Estimated product of a Penny Rate at 31st December,					
1945, gross	...	...	...	...	£696
			Total	M.	F.
Live Births: Legitimate	...	...	851	455	396
Illegitimate	...	...	17	11	6
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...			19.085
Still Births	...	...	25	13	12
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	...	...			28.80
Deaths	...	...	462	249	213
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...			10.15
Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):					
			Total	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	
No. 29. Puerperal and Post-Abortion					
Sepsis	...	...	1	1.11	
No. 30. Other maternal causes	...	...	Nil	Nil	
Total	...	...	1	1.11	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—					
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...			40.32
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					38.77
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					117.64
Deaths from:—					
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...			1
Measles (all ages)	...	...			1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...			1
Diphtheria	...	...			2
Scarlet Fever	...	...			Nil

BIRTHS.

The total births accredited to Rowley Regis during the year under review was 868, a decrease of 115 on the preceding year. The birth rate for the area was 19.085, which figure is higher than that of the whole country (viz. 16.1). Of these 868 births, 17 were illegitimate (11 male and 6 female). The majority of births were attended by Municipal Midwives.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

There are two War-time Nurseries open in the Borough — these have been of great benefit to the children who attended regularly. They have been inspected at regular intervals and the health of the children carefully supervised. Treatment with artificial sunlight has been given all children showing any signs of rickets, debility and anaemia. In addition to caring for the youngsters, the nurseries have provided young probationers with a sound training in child care. The affiliation of both Nurseries

to the National Society of Children's Nurseries has been confirmed and regular lectures and teaching by the Matrons and Senior Staff has been carried on with great keenness and enthusiasm throughout the year. Tutorials at the clinics and special lectures have been given by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH IN THIS AREA.

CAUSE OF DEATH	M.	F.	Total
ALL CAUSES	249	213	462
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Diphtheria	2	—	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	13	9	22
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	3	3
Syphilitic Diseases	3	—	3
Influenza	1	2	3
Measles	—	1	1
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	—	—	—
Ac. Inf. enceph.	—	—	—
Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesph (M), Uterus (F)	4	7	11
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	11	17
Cancer of Breast	—	10	10
Cancer of all other sites... ..	25	21	46
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	21	24	45
Heart disease	76	57	133
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	3	4
Bronchitis	30	18	48
Pneumonia	16	2	18
Other respiratory diseases	2	—	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Appendicitis	1	2	3
Other Digestive Diseases	5	4	9
Nephritis	4	5	9
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	—	1	1
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	3	1	4
Con. mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	9	7	16
Suicide	2	—	2
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—	1
Other violent causes	2	2	4
All other causes	17	20	37
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—			
Total	23	12	35
Legitimate	22	11	33
Illegitimate	1	1	2

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE DEATH RATE.

462 deaths were recorded for Rowley Regis in 1945. The general death rate showed an increase, viz. 10.15 as compared with 9.66 in 1944. The highest number of deaths were attributable to the following causes:—

Heart Disease	...	133
Cancer	... ..	84

ABNORMAL SICKNESS OR MORTALITY.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor have the occupations or environment of the district had any demonstrably detrimental effect upon the public health.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

It is not necessary to deal with these matters in this report as they remain unchanged from previous years.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

- (a) **Maternal Mortality:** One maternal death occurred during the year.
- (b) **Infantile Mortality:** 35 deaths were registered in children under 1 year—the infantile mortality rate of 40.32 was lower than the figure for 1944, which was 53.91.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

During the year under review, two notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia were received. Both patients were admitted to hospital for treatment. The case rate per 1,000 is best expressed in relation to the number of births (live and still) registered rather than to the population, and when calculated on this basis is 2.239. This figure compares favourably with that for England and Wales—9.93.

MIDWIVES.

As in the previous year, supervision of the Municipal Midwives was undertaken by the Deputy Medical Officer. Routine visits of inspection were carried out, the bags and instruments examined, and their registers and records inspected. During the year, 14 midwives gave notice of intention to practise in the Borough, 5 of which were practising in a private capacity. Of the 661 cases dealt with in Rowley Regis, 411 were attended by Municipal Midwives as midwives, and 37 as Maternity Nurses. 213 cases were attended by private midwives. The average number of cases taken by each Municipal Midwife was approximately 56.

Medical aid was summoned either on account of the mother or infants in 203 cases.

During the year, 3 Municipal Midwives have received training in the administration of Gas and Air at the Birmingham

Maternity Hospital, and patients are now able to have Gas and Air Analgesia when desired. Before receiving this, every patient is examined by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and a certificate of fitness issued. 14 cases have received anagesics during the year.

HEALTH VISITING.

The Local Authority normally maintains a staff of 6 Health Visitors with combined duties of School Nurses. During this year there was an average of 5 employed. Miss N. E. Chilton, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., returned from active service in November and was promoted to the post of Senior Health Visitor. Miss Chilton is especially interested in extending the educational side of the Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

The table below gives a summary of the visits made by the Health Visitors in 1945:—

	Visits.	Re-visits.	Total.
Expectant Mothers	62	18	80
Live Births	860	867	2727
Children 1 to 5 years... ..	33	4130	4163
Still Births	34	—	34
Infant Deaths	17	—	17
Maternal Deaths	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	3	—	3
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	2	—	2
Chicken Pox	—	—	—
Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases	—	—	—
Tuberculosis : County Council	70	393	463
Local Authority	—	44	44
Measles	23	—	23
Whooping Cough	14	—	14
Miscellaneous	277	38	315
	1398	6491	7889

The total number of visits paid by the Health Visitors was 7,889.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE BABIES.

As in the previous year this important work has been carried out by the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work. The Association has proved most helpful in this matter and have co-operated with the Health Visitors and the Clinics in every possible way to help both mothers and babies.

CARE OF PREMATURE BABIES.

Special attention has been given these babies both by Midwives and Health Visitors. Cots, clothing and equipment have

been loaned, where necessary, when these babies have been nursed at home.

In those cases where removal to Hospital was required, transport by Ambulance (equipped with a supply of oxygen and heated basket) has been available.

The Committee during the year decided to appoint Dr. Frances Braid, of Birmingham, as part-time Consulting Paediatrician.

HOME HELPS.

This scheme is still hampered by the difficulty of finding suitable women and only 2 home helps have been employed during the year.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

One child was on the register in 1945. The Medical Officer of Health is the person designated to receive the necessary notices, and the Health Visitors visit such children under the statute.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Four Infant Welfare Centres are provided and maintained by the Council, seven sessions being held weekly. Two nurses and a doctor are in attendance at the Centres, and are assisted by Voluntary Helpers, and here I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the work undertaken by these ladies, and would like to say how much their services are appreciated by the mothers and staff.

- (a) The total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centres during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were:—

(i)	Under 1 year of age	...	704
(ii)	Over 1 year of age	...	90

- (b) The total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centres during the year, and who at the end of the year were:—

(i)	Under 1 year of age	...	594
(ii)	Over 1 year of age	...	996

- (c) The total number of attendances at the Centre was 13,836, as compared with 15,905 last year.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

There are three Clinics provided and maintained by the Council in which Ante-Natal work is carried out. The statistics of attendances and work done are given below:—

			Year 1945		Year 1944
(i)	No. of cases	...	555	...	615
(ii)	No. of sessions held	...	156	...	116
(iii)	Total attendances	...	2693	...	2757
(iv)	Average attendances per session	...	17	...	24

Facilities exist for providing dental treatment, extra nourishment, etc., and all expectant mothers have been urged to take advantage of these facilities and of the vitamin supplements provided under the National Scheme.

POST-NATAL CLINICS.

These have continued to be held in conjunction with the Ante-Natal Clinics. The attendances for the year were 35.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—(1) WATER.

The water is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and is satisfactory both in (a) quantity and (b) quality.

(2) Bacteriological and Chemical analyses are taken frequently by the Company, and no adverse report has been received.

(3) The waters are not liable to Plumbo-Solvent action and

(4) No action was necessary in any form of contamination.

(5) All the Dwelling Houses and the population are supplied from the public water mains.

(a) Direct to the Houses, 95% estimated.

(b) By mean of standpipes, 5% estimated.

Most of the property supplied by standpipes is scheduled for clearance.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All new work is supervised by the Building Inspector through the Surveyor's Department. General repairs under the Public Health Acts are done through the Sanitary Department.

Drainage work carried out through the Sanitary Department is as follows:—

No. of yards of new drains laid ...	...	303
New gullies fixed ...	...	7
New sewer connections ...	...	4
New ventilation pipes fixed ...	...	9
New intercepting traps ...	...	7
New inspection chambers ...	...	10
No. of drains unstopped by Council ...	...	152
Drains tested ...	...	7

In addition, the following work has been carried out:—

Defective pails renewed ...	...	—
Additional W.C.'s provided ...	...	9
Defective dustbins renewed ...	...	246
New piggeries built ...	...	7
New cowsheds ...	...	—
Water samples taken from watercourse ...	...	6

All new Plans submitted to the Surveyor for approval are also examined by the Sanitary Department. This system of collaboration is particularly useful in connection with the enforcing of adequate Sanitary arrangements and fire escape provisions with regard to Factories and also Sanitary provision and washing facilities in connection with Shop premises.

2.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Little trouble has been experienced with nuisances from pollution during the year.

3.—(1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

All existing privies are inaccessible to the sewer. The W.C., Ashpit and Cesspool accommodation in the borough at the end of the year, December, 1945, is as follows:—

Wards.	No. of W.C's.	No. of Bins	No. of Privies.	No. of Pails.	No. of Cess-pools
Cradley Heath ...	2790	2735	3	15	1
Old Hill ...	2834	2856	3	8	1
Blackheath ...	1890	2098	—	—	—
Rowley Regis ...	3316	3652	12	28	11
Tividale ...	2153	2012	15	21	5
Totals ...	12983	13353	33	72	18

(2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The cesspool emptyings are carried out by the Surveyor's Department with the gully emptying machine in conjunction with, and at the request of the Sanitary Department. They are situated as follows:—

CESSPOOLS.

Premises:

- “ Briardene,” Oakham.
- “ Beulah,” Oakham.
- “ Braemar,” Oakham.
- “ Brookfield,” Oakham.
- “ Golf Club,” Oakham.
- “ Wellfield ” House, Oakham.
- “ Del-garda,” New House, Darby's Hill.
- Marler Bros., Perry's Lake, Rowley Regis.
- “ The Dell,” Moor Lane, Rowley Regis.
- “ Lyndale,” Moor Lane, Rowley Regis.
- Diamond Cottages, Gadds Green, Rowley Regis.
- Two Cottages, Richard's Quarries, Gadds Green.

The "Spiers," New Birmingham to Wolverhampton Road,
Tividale.

"Pontymoile," Birmingham to Wolverhampton New Road.

"Windymoore," Darby's Hill, Oakham.

Smart, Moor Lane, Rowley Regis.

Kendrick and Mole, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.

DISPOSAL.

Centralised tipping continues. The place is well maintained and is free from nuisance. The Council have deferred the purchase of a mechanical shovel for the purpose of excavating from the sides of the hole all the necessary covering material. The use of a machine of this kind with a Bulldozer attachment would be more efficient than hand covering and would certainly create better hygienic conditions.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE.

Item	(1)	(2)	COLLECTION.		DISPOSAL.		COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.	
			(A) (3)	(B) (4)	(A) (5)	(B) (6)	(A) (7)	(B) (8)
		Particulars.	(a) including (b) excluding	loan charges, depreciation, revenue contributions to capital outlay and rents.	(a) including (b) excluding	loan charges, depreciation, revenue contributions to capital outlay and rents.	(a) including (b) excluding	revenue contributions to loan charges, depreciation capital outlay and rents.
1.	Gross Expenditure ...	£ s. d. 6913 0 3	£ s. d. 6430 0 3	£ s. d. 1276 4 7	£ s. d. 1254 4 7	£ s. d. 8189 4 10	£ s. d. 7684 4 10	
2.	Gross Income ...	£ s. d. 61 8 2	£ s. d. 61 8 2	£ s. d. 43 14 8	£ s. d. 43 14 8	£ s. d. 105 2 10	£ s. d. 105 2 10	
3.	Net Cost ...	£ s. d. 6851 12 1	£ s. d. 6368 12 1	£ s. d. 1232 9 11	£ s. d. 1210 9 11	£ s. d. 8084 2 0	£ s. d. 7579 2 0	
4.	Gross Expenditure per ton ...	£ s. d. 17 11	£ s. d. 16 8	£ s. d. 3 3½	£ s. d. 3 3	£ s. d. 1 1 2½	£ s. d. 19 11 3¼	
5.	Gross Income per ton ...	£ s. d. 2	£ s. d. 2	£ s. d. 1½	£ s. d. 1½	£ s. d. 3¼	£ s. d. 3¼	
6.	Net Cost per ton ...	£ s. d. 17 9	£ s. d. 16 6	£ s. d. 3 2½	£ s. d. 3 1¾	£ s. d. 1 0 11¼	£ s. d. 19 7¾	
7.	Net Cost per 1,000 population ...	£ s. d. 148 18 11½	£ s. d. 138 8 11½	£ s. d. 26 15 10½	£ s. d. 26 6 3¾	£ s. d. 175 14 9¾	£ s. d. 164 15 3¼	
8.	Net costs, per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	£ s. d. 536 14 11¾	£ s. d. 498 18 2¾	£ s. d. 96 11 0½	£ s. d. 94 16 7	£ s. d. 633 6 0¼	£ s. d. 593 14 9¾	

CLEANSING SERVICES.

The following vehicles are in service for refuse collection work:—

Date Purchased.	Type of Vehicles.	Capacity.
1. 1st June, 1935 ...	S. & D. Freighter ...	10.5 cubic yards.
2. 29th May, 1940 ...	S. & D. Freighter ...	10.5 cubic yards.
3. 8th July, 1943 ...	Dennis ...	10.5 cubic yards.
4. 1st Jan., 1945 ...	Scammell ...	12 cubic yards.

No 1 vehicle had a new body fixed on 15th February of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. steel plating. As stated in a former report, the refuse completely cankers and corrodes the steel plating in a little more than three years, and an experiment was being made by previously “treating” the metal before fixing.

In this case the “treatment” was carried out and an examination of the body work after twelve months hard wear shows so far that it has been effective.

The steel plate is clear and bright and there is little sign of it “pitting.” Twelve months, however, is not a fair test and time will prove whether the application has been successful. The cost of the additional treatment was only £3 16s. 6d.

On the interior body of the Scammell vehicle before it was put out to work was bolted three different forms of metalwork to test for corrosive action. These have been examined, and whilst it is too early to give a definite answer after twelve months usage, there appears to be no sign of canker. The surrounding body metalwork, however, does show the usual “pitting” or corrosive action.

1.—Total refuse collected in tons, 31st March, 1945—7,715.

2.—Population: Middle of 1945 (estimated)—46,000.

3.—Area (statute acres)—3,828.

4.—Weight (in cwts.) per 1,000 population per day, 365 days to year—9.1/5 cwts.

5.—Number of houses and premises—12,765.

6.—Method of collection:

Mechanical Vehicles	Percentage of refuse collected.
4	100%

7.—Method of disposal: Controlled tipping.

8.—Average length of haul: $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

9.—Number of employees other than clerical:

Collection—20.	Disposal—3.
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Much difficulty has been experienced with labour shortage and suitability, and this, together with sickness and a lesser output per man, has resulted in a few complaints.

Time lost through sickness is as follows:—

1942.—Time lost through sickness	131 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.
1943.— „ „ „ „	268 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.
1944.— „ „ „ „	111 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.
1945.— „ „ „ „	411 days.

The Council's sick scheme provides for four weeks sickness with full pay per annum, less National Health benefit. Unfortunately, this usually occurs in the winter months when the work is the heaviest.

The following letters were given to every employee:—

BOROUGH OF ROWLEY REGIS.

14th September, 1945.

Cleansing and Salvage Services.

To all Employees:—

I am writing this circular letter to ascertain the views of the men concerned with regard to the use of the bathing facilities installed at Waterfall Lane.

If it is your wish to have a hot bath after finishing work and before proceeding home, I shall be glad if you will please sign this form and leave it in the office so that the matter can be placed before the next Committee meeting for approval, after which the necessary arrangements will be made.

(Signed) ALEC LONGFELLOW,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I am desirous of having a hot bath as suggested above.

Signed.....

BOROUGH OF ROWLEY REGIS.

14th September, 1945.

Cleansing and Salvage Services.

To all Employees:—

As this is a public service, we are all naturally anxious that our work should be as efficient as possible. Our employers, the ratepayers, of course, have a right to demand it.

At the same time we ourselves have a right to expect the best possible conditions that the service will allow.

In order to achieve and maintain these ideals, it is possible that the worker concerned may from time to time have suggestions to make.

If this is so, I shall be very glad indeed to receive suggestions of any kind in writing at any time.

Will you please, therefore, if you have any suggestions to make, please put them in the office letter box and they will receive my immediate personal attention.

(Signed) ALEC LONGFELLOW,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

By the end of the year not one reply had been received.

The financial balance of Salvage Returns for the year ended 31st March, 1945, which is not included in the returns of refuse, is approximately £951 2s. 10d.

The all-in costs on the rates, therefore, for refuse collection and disposal and salvage work, including loan charges, depreciation, revenue contributions to capital outlay and rents, amounts to approximately £7,132 19s. 2d. against £6,317 6s. 2d. for the previous year.

WASTE RECOVERY.

The estimated value of Salvage Sales is as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
January	...	...	183	0	5
February	...	...	237	8	10
March	...	...	221	10	0
April	...	...	207	19	3
May	...	...	164	1	9
June	...	...	152	1	9
July	...	...	152	7	8
August	...	...	138	7	7
September	...	...	138	16	1
October	...	...	172	4	3
November	...	...	150	16	8
December	...	...	102	14	5
			<hr/> £2,021 9 8 <hr/>		

The following are the amounts of waste material recovered and returned to industry:—

			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Waste paper	...	...	197	11	1	0
Pig food	...	...	296	10	2	0
Baled tins	...	...	31	4	0	0
Scrap metals (ferrous)			9	19	3	15
Bones	...	...	5	16	3	21
Broken glass	...	...	18	16	1	0
Bottles and jars, etc.	...		224 gross 9 dozen.			

From 16th—30th June, the Ministry of Supply conducted a “Book Drive” in the Borough. 58,562 books were collected, weighing 5 tons 3 cwts. 2 qrs. Of these, 2,720 were sent to the Forces.

The “Direction” to collect ferrous and non-ferrous metals was cancelled from 1st April, 1945.

In accordance with the Ministry of Supply’s Salvage Circular No. 120, a bonus of £14 was claimed, representing £1 per ton allowance for paper collected over and above 80% of the amount, covering the same period of last year, that is July to December.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Council accepted the delegated powers of the Rats and Mice (Destruction Act, 1919, from the County Council.

A “follow up” treatment of one section of the Sewers was given with almost negative results. The reason is that mostly all the sewers, which consist of nine-inch diameter pipes, are surcharged and rats would not be able to use them.

Five contracts have been accepted by the Council for disinfestation work totalling £109 10s. 0d. per annum. The following results have been obtained during the year:—

Complete takes	...	...	14
Good takes	...	...	131
Small takes	...	...	244
Number not taken	...	...	238
Dead rats found	...	...	29

The rat is generally more in evidence in the country than in the town, because a farmer is obliged to carry stocks of corn and other food for his animals and birds, usually amounting to many tons. Since, however, there has had to be large storage Depots in the towns, and this, together with the availability of food scraps through Salvage operations and the like, the rat menace has grown to alarming proportions.

This in itself is bad enough on account of the loss of food the rats eat, but the danger of disease likely to be spread by rats might be of serious consequences.

The rat makes his home in drains, garbage pits and sewers, and apart from the filthiness of his abode, he is infested with fleas. While the flea itself is merely a nuisance, the *Bacillus pestis* which lives in its blood rightly calls for the most urgent and unremitting vigilance of all Health Authorities. The *Bacillus* is the cause of Bubonic Plague in which the blood is infected and of Pneumonic Plague in which the respiratory system is infected.

Rats also spread Trichinosis, which is a parasitic condition in Pigs, the rat bite fever occurring in overcrowded districts where children are sometimes bitten, influenza amongst horses and finally dysentery and foot and mouth disease.

The rat is a quick breeder, maturing at three to four months and producing six to twelve per litter and six litters per year. The rate of breeding presupposes an ample supply of food to maintain its rapid growing population.

In effect an infestation of rats rapidly assumes an equilibrium in which their prolific breeding habits are balanced by the quantity of food available or the measures taken to keep them in control.

Undoubtedly, the Ministry's method of prebaiting and poisoning has given excellent results, providing that “follow up” treatments are made and systematic inspections are made.

(3) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

A.—THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS
MADE DURING THE YEAR 1945.

HOUSES.

Under Public Health Acts.

Houses where no defects were found to exist	...	116
Houses where defects were found to exist	... ..	324
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES inspected during the year 1945	... ..	440
RE-VISITS to houses for work in progress	...	1,596

SYNOPSIS OF OTHER INSPECTIONS MADE.

Nature	No of Individual premises visited	Total Number of Inspections made
Shops Inspected under Shops Acts ...	66	66
Verminous Premises	196	439
Drains	478	804
Urinals	1	5
Slaughterhouses	19	354
Offensive Trades	1	17
Foodstores	415	1771
Stables and Animals kept	11	11
Piggeries	190	964
Factories	108	163
Bakehouses	26	201
Cowsheds	22	141
Dairies	14	89
Van Dwellings	11	11
Carbide Stores	12	12
Petroleum Stores	106	132
Smoke	5	5
Infectious Diseases	208	322
Cinemas	4	12
Defective Bins	317	756
Water Courses	5	74
Complaints investigated	634	634
Schools	3	3
Scabies	14	26

INTERVIEWS WITH OWNERS ... 890

Nature of Defects or Nuisances discovered during 1945.	No. of Defects found	No. of Defects remedied by		Total No. of Defects remedied
		Informal action	Formal action	
DWELLING HOUSES:				
Defective roofs of coalhouses & verandahs	10	10	—	10
Defective roofs	118	107	—	107
Defective chimneys	23	32	—	32
Defective brickwork and joints	7	6	—	6
Defective and dangerous walls	1	4	—	4
Defective or no spouting	24	21	—	21
Obstructed spouting	2	—	—	—
Defective yard paving	1	1	—	1
Insanitary structures	1	3	—	3
Accumulations	13	25	—	25
Defective dustbins	269	327	—	327
Insufficient or insanitary ashpits	1	—	—	—
Dampness	2	3	—	3
Dirty dwelling houses	15	17	—	17
Dirty living rooms	17	17	—	17
Dirty bedrooms	20	18	—	18
Dirty staircases	4	3	—	3
Dirty pantries and cellars	3	3	—	3
Dirty floors	—	1	—	1
Defective and dangerous ceiling	49	30	—	30
Defective wall plaster	47	27	—	27
Defective doors, casements and steps	4	6	—	6
Defective firegrate and brickwork	22	11	—	11
Defective window frames and fastenings	21	10	—	10
Defective sash cords	87	89	—	89
No washing facilities	2	—	—	—
Insufficient coalhouse accommodation	1	1	—	1
Verminous house	46	40	—	40
Defective and dangerous floors	22	32	—	32
Insufficient light and ventilation in dwelling house	1	2	—	2
Owners name not in rent book	3	2	—	2
External painting	11	10	—	10
Defective staircase	5	1	—	1
Defective or no hand rail	1	—	—	—
Fixed windows	—	1	—	1
Defective mantelshelves	—	1	—	1
WASHHOUSES:				
Defective roofs	28	20	—	20
Defective chimneys	2	3	—	3
Defective brickwork and joints in walls	—	3	—	3
Dilapidated and dangerous washhouses...	6	1	—	1
Dirty washhouses	5	8	—	8
Defective floors	1	1	—	1

Nature of Defects or Nuisances discovered during 1945.	No. of Defects found	No. of Defects remedied by		Total No. of Defects remedied
		Informal action	Formal action	
Defective ceiling and dangerous plaster...	1	—	—	—
Defective wall plaster	6	—	—	—
Defective boiler fireplaces	5	16	—	16
Defective washing boiler	11	—	—	—
Defective boiler brickwork	9	—	—	—
Defective or obstructed sink waste pipes	11	8	2	10
Insufficient water supply	1	2	—	2
Burst service pipes	26	17	—	17
Defective doors, casements and steps ...	—	1	—	1
Defective and dangerous walls	—	3	—	3
Insufficient washhouse accommodation...	1	1	—	1
Defective or no spouting	2	—	—	—
Defective window frames	1	1	—	1
Insanitary sink	2	1	—	1
Insufficient sink accommodation	2	1	—	1
Accumulations	—	1	—	1
Dilapidated or dangerous walls	—	1	—	1
Defective sinks	—	1	—	1
Insufficient washing facilities	—	1	—	1

DRAINS AND WATER CLOSETS:

Defective roofs, W.C.'s, ashbin shelters	11	15	—	15
Defective and dangerous walls	—	4	—	4
Defective brickwork and joints	1	—	—	—
Defective soil and vent pipes	3	3	—	3
Dirty water closets	8	9	—	9
Defective floors	2	5	—	5
Defective doors, cases and steps	—	3	—	3
Defective flushing apparatus	43	35	1	36
Defective W.C. pans and joints	45	38	1	39
Obstructed W.C.'s and drains	177	177	1	178
Defective or no seats	5	8	—	8
Burst service pipes	18	23	—	23
Insufficient water supply	3	—	—	—
Insufficient drainage	9	8	—	8
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	10	8	—	8
Defective drains	14	10	1	11
Broken inspection chamber cover	7	5	1	6
Dilapidated W.C.'s	4	—	—	—
Defective gulley and gulley gratings ...	1	—	—	—
Defective urinals	—	1	—	1
Insufficient light and ventilation	—	1	—	1

FACTORIES:

Insufficient urinal accommodation	1	—	—	—
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	2	4	—	4
Defective or no seats	—	2	—	2

Nature of Defects or Nuisances discovered during 1945.	No. of Defects found	No. of Defects remedied by		Total No. of Defects remedied
		Informal action	Formal action	
Dirty water closets	24	14	—	14
Defective flushing apparatus	1	3	—	3
Insufficient light and ventilation in W.C.	12	5	—	5
Defective W.C. pans and joints	—	6	—	6
Insufficient screening to W.C.'s	4	2	—	2
No washing facilities and dirty lavatories	1	2	—	2
Defective and insufficient drainage	—	1	—	1
Defective roofs and chimneys	—	1	—	1
Defective doors and door fastenings	2	—	—	—
Obstructed drains	—	2	—	2
Smoke nuisance	—	1	—	1
Dirty floors	—	1	—	1
PIGGERIES:				
Defective roofs	1	2	—	2
Defective floors and walls	3	4	—	4
Insufficient drainage	3	4	—	4
Filthy	8	5	—	5
Accumulations	1	—	—	—
BAKEHOUSES:				
Dirty ceiling and walls	19	12	—	12
Dirty floors	1	—	—	—
Defective roofs	1	1	—	1
Defective walls and brickwork	3	1	—	1
Defective floors	5	2	—	2
Obstructed drains	—	1	—	1
Dirty W.C.'s	2	—	—	—
Dirty benches and utensils	4	2	—	2
Accumulations	—	1	—	1
Defective baking ovens	—	4	—	4
No storage receptacles	—	1	—	1
SLAUGHTERHOUSES:				
Defective service pipes and taps	1	1	—	1
STABLES AND ANIMALS KEPT:				
Dirty stables	1	1	—	1
Accumulations	2	—	—	—
Nuisances from animals and poultry	3	2	—	2
Insanitary structures	2	—	—	—
FOODSTORES:				
External woodwork requires painting	—	1	—	1
Verminous	—	1	—	1
Contravention of Meat Regulations	—	2	—	2
Defective and dirty floors	4	8	—	8

Nature of Defects or Nuisances discovered during 1945.	No. of Defects found	No. of Defects remedied by		Total No. of Defects remedied
		Informal action	Formal action	
Defective doors and door casings	1	2	—	2
Dirty foodstores	9	3	—	3
Accumulations	2	1	—	1
Obstructed drains or insufficient drainage	1	3	—	3
Defective ceiling and walls	3	4	—	4
Defective window frames and fastenings	1	2	—	2
Defective bins	1	—	—	—
Insufficient offal and storage bins	—	4	—	4
Defective chimneys	1	1	—	1
Insufficient water supply	—	1	—	1
Insufficient sink accommodation	—	1	—	1
Defective yard paving	—	1	—	1
DAIRIES:				
Dirty dairies	3	3	—	3
COWSHEDS:				
Dirty Cowsheds	8	13	—	13
SCHOOLS:				
Obstructed drains and W.C.'s	10	—	—	—
CINEMAS:				
Accumulations	—	1	—	1
Defective floors	1	1	—	1
CANTEENS:				
Dirty kitchens, utensils and stoves ...	2	1	—	1
PETROLEUM STORES:				
Defective inspection chambers	1	2	—	2
Insufficient and obstructed vent pipes ...	1	3	—	3
REFUSE TIPS:				
Rat infested	1	1	—	1
OFFENSIVE TRADES:				
Defective and insufficient condensation pipes	—	1	—	1
STATIC WATER TANK:				
Stagnant water	—	4	—	4

B. THE NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1945.

(Distinguishing Statutory from Informal).

INFORMAL NOTICES on the books, 31st December, 1944	186	
FORMAL NOTICES on the books, 31st December, 1944	35	
INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1945	623	
INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1945 (re Shops Act)	1	
FORMAL NOTICES served during the year 1945 ...	Nil	
	—	845

C. THE RESULT OF THE SERVICE OF SUCH NOTICES.

INFORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1945 which were outstanding 31st December, 1944	165	
INFORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1945 which were served during year	518	
INFORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1945 which were served during year (re Shops Act) ...	1	
FORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1945 which were outstanding 31st December, 1944	4	
(These notices relate to condemned property not yet demolished).		
FORMAL NOTICES complied with in 1945 which were served during year	Nil	
	—	688
TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTICES on the books 31st December, 1945. (For analysis see below):—		
FORMAL	31	
INFORMAL	126	
	—	157

COMPLAINTS.

The total number of complaints received during the year was 634.

OUTWORKERS.

During the year 20 lists have been received containing 96 names. Ten Reminder Notices were sent out to employers.

(IV) SHOPS.

The Shops Act, in its entirety, is carried out by the Sanitary Staff, and the following activity is recorded:—

Shops inspected—66. Re-visits—66.
One notice was served for remedying defects.

(V) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 1. | Council houses infested | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Other houses infested | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| | Council houses disinfested | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | Other houses disinfested | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
2. Houses are disinfested by spraying with Zaldecide and fumigated with Cimex. New houses are gassed with Hydro-Cyanide when necessary. Trials will be made with the new D.D.T. Solution as required.

CANAL BOATS.

Thirty-one boats have been inspected. Four were found defective, requiring repairs to cabin roofs, decks and internal and external painting. Three registration certificates were renewed.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—
- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) | (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 440 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2030 |
- (2) and (3) Inspections made under the Housing Acts ... Nil
- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 324 |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—
- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | ... | ... | ... | 440 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—
- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Proceedings under the Housing Act | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:— | | | | |
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:— | | | | |
| (a) By Owners | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

In addition to the above, Notices were served on properties in respect of defective dust-bins as follows:—

Number of dust-bins for which Preliminary Notices were served	...	...	...	...	...	...	269
Number of dust-bins for which Preliminary Notices were complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	327

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 11 cowkeepers in the district occupying 18 cowsheds. The approximate number of Milch Cows is 106. There is one Bottling establishment for Sterilised Milk and one for Accredited Milk to whom a Principal Licence has been granted.

Number of Retail Purveyors on Register, 31st December, 1945	202
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of Wholesale Traders and Producers on Register, 31st December, 1945	21
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Supplementary Licences granted:—

Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

SAMPLING OF FOODS.

110 samples were taken for analysis by the County Authority acting for and on behalf of the Borough. Of these, 100 were genuine and 10 were adulterated, as follows:—

Article	Total	Genuine	Adulterated	Nature
Arrowroot	2	2	—	
Baking Powder	3	2	1	19.5% deficient in available Carbon Dioxide, containing only 6.44% instead of at least 8%.
Barley	1	1	—	
Batter Mixture	2	2	—	
Bicarbonate of Soda	2	2	—	
Boracic Acid Powder	1	1	—	
Borax and Glycerine	1	1	—	
Borax, Powdered	1	1	—	
Butter	1	1	—	
Cake Mixture	1	1	—	
Cheritone Tonic Cup	1	1	—	
Chicory & Coffee Extract	1	1	—	
Chocolate Spong Mixture	2	2	—	

Article	Total	Genuine	Adult- erated	Nature
Cocoa	1	1	—	
Coffee	2	2	—	
Curry Powder	1	1	—	
Custard Powder	1	1	—	
Gelatine, Powdered	2	2	—	
Gripe Mixture	1	1	—	
Herbax Laxative	1	1	—	
Jelly	1	1	—	
Lard	1	1	—	
Lemon Cheese	1	1	—	
Mace, Ground	1	1	—	
Macleans Stomach Powder	1	1	—	
Margarine, Special	1	1	—	
Milk	45	36	1 3.6% added water 1 3.4% added water 1 2.8% added water 1 2.5% added water 1 Traces of water 1 1.1% added water 1 3.6% added water 1 3.3% deficient in fat 1 30% deficient in fat.	
Milk, Pasteurised	7	7	—	
Milk, Sterilised	9	9	—	
Milk, Tuberculin tested:				
Pasteurised	2	2	—	
Mustard	1	1	—	
Oil, Carron	1	1	—	
Pancake Mixture	1	1	—	
Pepper, black	1	1	—	
Semolina	3	3	—	
Spice, mixed, ground	1	1	—	
Suet Pudding	1	1	—	
Tablets, Saccharin	1	1	—	
Tablets, Sweetening	1	1	—	
Tonic, York, containing malt	1	1	—	
Vinegar, non-brewed	1	1	—	

The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following particulars of bacteriological examination of milk samples taken during the year in the Borough:—

Designated milk samples	25
No. found satisfactory	22
Undesignated milk samples	26
No. found satisfactory	16

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Pigs are being dressed for Government distribution at one Slaughterhouse in Cradley Heath. Seventeen other slaughterhouses are licensed within the Borough and these are used for killing cottagers' pigs as required.

The number of pigs slaughtered and inspected in the district during the year was 2,620.

The undermentioned meat and food was condemned and destroyed during the year:—

Meat:—

Pigs' carcasses	...	...	...	...	431 lbs.
Pigs' plucks	...	...	...	...	236 „
Pigs' livers	...	...	...	...	6 „
Pigs' lungs	...	...	...	...	25 „
Pigs' heads	...	...	...	...	507 „
Pigs' offal	...	...	...	...	180 „

Other Foods:—

Sausage	...	...	...	...	12½ „
Fish	...	...	...	...	406 „
Dried Milk	...	...	...	...	5 „
Pickles	...	...	...	...	20 „
Fish and meat paste	...	...	...	...	½ „
Syrup	...	...	...	...	8 „
Marmalade and jam	...	...	...	...	10 „
Canned vegetables	...	...	...	...	269¾ „
Canned fruits	...	...	...	...	1 „
Canned meats	...	...	...	...	772½ „
Canned milk	...	...	...	...	198¾ „
Canned fish	...	...	...	...	292 „
Canned soup	...	...	...	...	35¾ „
Canned tongue	...	...	...	...	15 „
Canned meat and vegetables	...	...	...	...	32¼ „
Oxo	...	...	...	...	½ „
Bars of Chocolate	...	...	...	...	8½ „
Oats	...	...	...	...	112 „
Number of Eggs	...	...	...	...	1760

PUBLIC MORTUARIES.

During the year 11 bodies have been received.

DISINFECTION.

The following articles have been disinfected by steam at Waterfall Lane Depot:—

Beds	...	...	...	...	44
Bed Covers	...	...	...	...	2
Blankets	...	...	...	...	24
Sheets	...	...	...	...	4
Pillows	...	...	...	...	29
Pillow Cases	...	...	...	...	7
Bolsters	...	...	...	...	8
Bolster Cases	...	...	...	...	2
Counterpanes	...	...	...	...	3
Overlays	...	...	...	...	4
Dresses	...	...	...	...	1
Skirts	...	...	...	...	1
Towels	...	...	...	...	4
Shawls	...	...	...	...	1
Palliasses	...	...	...	...	2

Number of rooms disinfected after infectious disease—46. In line with modern thought, gaseous disinfection of rooms is not now done except on request.

Re SCABIES:—

Number of persons cleansed at the Cleansing Station, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill	...	...	...	...	3
Number cleansed at the Clinics	...	...	...	...	144
Number of Children under 5 years	...	...	...	...	38

Small Pox Contacts.

4 visits.

14 re-visits.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the past year has been 562, as compared with 331 in the previous year.

Small Pox.

No notification of Small Pox was received.

Diphtheria.

The total number of cases notified in 1945 was 63, as against 57 in 1944. The number of deaths in consequence of this disease was 2, which was lower than for the previous year. During the year 926 children were immunised against Diphtheria.

Pneumonia.

There were 9 cases notified during the year, and 18 deaths occurred from all types of this disease. The number of deaths was higher than in 1944, the comparable figure being 15 notifications and 13 deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

72 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in 1945. 30 of the cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals, and the remainder were treated at home by local practitioners. There were no deaths in consequence of this disease.

Cancer.

The recorded number of deaths attributed to Cancer and Malignant Disease shows an increase of 32, being 84 against 52 for 1944.

Tuberculosis.

22 deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system and 3 deaths from other Tubercular diseases were registered in 1945, corresponding with 22 and 5 respectively in 1944.

Home visits to tuberculosis patients were made by the Health Visitors, as follows:—

			1944		1945
Visits	...	...	66	...	70
Re-visits	...	...	331	...	437

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year.

Erysipelas.

3 cases were notified in 1945, as compared with 9 in 1944.

Measles.

344 cases were notified. One death occurred from this cause.

Whooping Cough.

62 cases were notified and 1 death occurred from this cause.

Enteric Fever.

No cases have occurred in this district in the past year.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

This is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SCABIES AND VERMINOUS PERSONS.

As before, considerable time has been given to this phase of Public Health work during the year, the Health Visitors being instructed to pay particular attention to this problem. Cases of Scabies needing treatment continue to be dealt with at the Mace Street Clinic, where the Gas Cleansing Unit is utilised for this purpose. A woman attendant is on duty for three or more sessions per week and children and women are treated by hot shower baths and the application of Benzyl Benzoate.

Men requiring treatment are treated at the Cleansing Station attached to the Waterfall Lane Depot. Infected houses and bedding, clothing, etc., are disinfected by members of the Sanitary Inspector's Staff.

